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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/019,976	10/23/2001	Eric Cleveland Bigham	PU3650USw	2196

23347 7590 09/15/2003

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EXAMINER

SHAMEEM, GOLAM M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1626

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/019,976	BIGHAM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Golam M M Shameem	1626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17, 19, 20 and 24-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 24-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17, 19 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

Claims 1-17, 19, 20 and 24-29 are pending in the application. Claims 18 and 21-23 have been canceled. Receipt is acknowledged of applicant's response to Office action filed on June 19, 2003 and that has been entered.

Response to Arguments

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants have elected Group I, Claims 1-13, 19 and 20, drawn to a compound of formula (I) and the species of the compound as set forth in claim 13. Claims 24-29 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.142 (b) as being directed to non-elected subject matter.

Claims 1-13, 19 and 20 are objected to for containing non-elected subject matters and the objection has been maintained for the following reasons. Applicant alleges, "Claims 1-13 and 19-20 are the elected subject matter" (Response, page 3). Applicant further argues, "The Examiner now appears to have created a new chemical Markush claim of narrower scope than Applicant's Claim 1" (Response, page 2).

This assessment is speculation on applicant's behalf because the products of invention group I-III differ materially in structure and in element. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicants because Applicants elected compound (claim 13) has an imidazole (548 class) core structure, wherein in claim 1 (objected), for example, R⁹ is selected from piperidine (546 class), morpholine (544 class) and others diverse heterocyclic ring. The invention group I-III is related to a set of structurally diverse and dissimilar compounds, which do not possess a substantial common core wherein a reference anticipating one would not necessarily render the

other obvious and to search all the above groups in a single application would be an undue burden on the Examiner. Therefore a separate search considerations are involved, which would impose a burden if unrestricted. Also the fields of search are not coextensive. In addition, Invention group II is distinct and independent from Invention group I because they are directed to different statutory classes of invention and, the practice of Invention I would not result in the practice of the other invention. However, Examiner would consider rejoining method of use claims (claims 14-17) commensurate in scope with the product claims when the case is in condition for allowance (provided those method claims are free from 35 U.S.C. 112 first and second paragraph).

Further, 35 U.S.C. 121, statutory patent law, is the singular basis for the restriction. The 35 U.S.C. 121 makes clear that restriction may be required in certain applications and that the Director/Commissioner has the right to make such a determination. In addition, the applicant's nowhere present evidence to the contrary that they are claiming independent and distinct inventions.

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive because Applicants' arguments unsupported by objective and competent factual evidence are entitled to little weight. *In re Greenfield* 197 USPQ 227. *In re Lindner* 173 USPQ 356. For these reasons, applicant's arguments are found unpersuasive and, since 35 U.S.C. 101 allows one patent per invention, the requirement for restriction is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Applicants preserve their right to file a divisional on the non-elected subject matter.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-17, 19 and 20 are objected to for containing non-elected subject matter. Claims drawn solely to the elected invention as identified supra, would appear allowable. The claims must be amended to exclude non-elected subject matter and within the limit of the elected compound and all the dependent claims also, must be amended to satisfy the restriction requirement in order to place the case in condition for allowance.

Therefore, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Golam Shameem, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 305-0116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached at (703) 308-4532. The Unofficial fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7921. The Official fax phone numbers for this Group are (703) 308-4556 or 305-3592. When filing a FAX in Technology Center 1600, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and

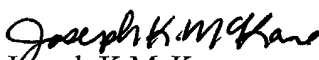
Art Unit: 1626

"Unofficial" for draft documents and other communications with the PTO that are not for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [joseph.mcKane@uspto.gov]. All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees will not communicate with applicant via Internet e-mail where sensitive data will be exchanged or where there exists a possibility that sensitive data could be identified unless there is of record an express waiver of the confidentiality requirements under 35 U.S.C. 122 by the applicant. See the Interim Internet Usage Policy published by the Patent and Trademark Office Official Gazette on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 308-2286.

Golam M M Shameem, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626, Group 1620
Technology Center 1


Joseph K McKane
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626, Group 1620
Technology Center 1

September 10, 2003